

THE  
HISTORY  

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OF  
PRINCE TANGUT,  

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AND OF  
*THE PRINCESS,*

WITH THE NOSE OF A FOOT LONG.

An Eastern Tale.

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ANECDOTE  
OF A PERSIAN MINISTER OF STATE.  

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THE

# HISTORY

OF

## PRINCE TANGUT,

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In one of the vallies of the great mountain Dalanger reigned a king who was a widower, very poor, and very old; he had three sons, whom he one day addressed in these words: 'My ancestors call upon me to join them in the land of spirits; but before I die I must reveal to you a secret of importance. A short time before my marriage, being fatigued in the pursuit of a bear, I passed the night in a cavern of the Yellow Mountain. A very handsome young man unexpectedly appeared to me in the morning, and said, "Aboucaf, train up thy children in the paths of virtue, and send them here when thou shalt be on the point of quitting the world." I could not return my thanks to this young man.

because he suddenly disappeared, but I have never forgotten his words. Go to the Yellow Mountain, my children, perhaps you will find there an inheritance more worthy of you than that which I shall be able to leave you.'—The three princes immediately set out, and having arrived at the Yellow Mountain, and advanced pretty far into the cavern described, they perceived the foot of a ladder, which till that time had been concealed. They ascended more than a thousand steps, and at last arrived at a square apartment, cut in the rock, where they saw nothing but a small basket made of rushes. This basket contained a purse of raw leather, a horn similar to those which the shepherds use to collect their scattered flocks, and a girdle of very coarse goats' hair. 'Truly,' said Hiarkan, the eldest of the brothers, 'our father had no reason to be in haste to discover to us this treasure. Let us not, however, fail to divide it among us. I shall take the girdle.'—'And I the horn,' said Xamor, who was next him in age.—'The purse then will belong to me,' said the youngest brother, who was called Tangut.—Hiarkan, in unrolling the girdle, saw a paper fall from it, on which he read these words: 'In what place do you wish to be?' The two others, curious to know if they should find similar billets, looked the one into the wide end of his horn, the other into his purse. Xamor found in his horn a paper, on which was written, 'How many



troops do you desire?' The youngest also drew from his purse a billet, which bore these words: 'What sum of money do you wish for?'—'If we have only to wish in order to be obeyed,' cried they all three together, 'we are happy indeed.'—'It is easy to make the trial of these prodigies,' said Tangut, 'I shall begin.'—He closed his purse and said, 'I wish for a thousand pieces of gold.'—At that instant the purse was stretched out, and became so heavy that it fell from his hands. He opened it upon the ground, turned it up, and a thousand pieces of gold dropt from it and were scattered about the place. Judge of



the raptures of the brothers at this sight. They made no further experiment, but set out on their return; but their father, Aboucas, could take no part in their joy; he expired just as they got home. After giving this good prince a magnificent funeral, they agreed together to preserve their secrets, and to leave their barren country, to go in quest of happier climates. Hiarkan and Xamor departed first; and founded in the same year two cities and two extensive kingdoms. But as it is only the History of Prince Tangut that we are about to record, we shall proceed to it without interruption.

He directed his course southward, and after having travelled a long time, stopped at the large city of Kemmerouf, the capital of the kingdom of Assan. As he was pleased with his residence there, he drew from his purse a prodigious quantity of gold, with which he purchased the richest and most magnificent equipages, and assumed all the outward appearance of a great prince. His expensive stile of living caused him to be soon noticed at court; nothing was talked of at the palace of the sultan Fadhel (for that was the name of the king of Assan) but the liberal Tangut. The emirs not only courted his friendship, but were proud of his notice. The ladies played off their utmost finesse to deprive one another of him, because youth and wealth, which commonly are at variance, were united in his person.

Tangut expressed to all the beauties of Kemmerouf how much he esteemed them, but their offered favours had in truth little attraction for him. The charms of the haughty Dogandar alone, the only daughter of the sultan, had been able to triumph over his heart. It was to no purpose, however, that he gave her entertainments which would have ruined the great Khan, and impoverished the king of China. The sultan and sultana, who approved of the attachment of this generous and opulent stranger, and who doubted not that he was of illustrious birth, at last commanded the princess to treat him less scornfully, and to meet, at least with an appearance of gratitude, his respectful attentions. Dogandar suddenly changed her conduct. In the kind and gracious deportment which she now affected, the sultan thought he recognized an undoubted testimony of her obedience, and Tangut conceived it to arise from a favourable change in her sentiments. But they were both ignorant of the real motive by which she was influenced.

One night, after some flattering and playful conversation, she said to her lover, 'I cannot avoid entertaining doubts of your affection, since I am still ignorant of the sovereign to whom you owe your existence. Your inexhaustible treasures prove that you are a great prince, but that is what the very dregs of the

people know as well as I. Is it not strange that I should know no more of you than the rest of the world? No, you certainly do not love me. Ah! if you indeed loved me, how severely would I punish you for a mystery which is so injurious to me! These last words, which the beauty pronounced with anger, terrified the amorous Tangut. 'Why, madam, do you accuse and condemn me at the same time? will you at least convict me of my error? what have I refused you? You have reason to judge of my birth by my riches, for I owe to my father the purse which is the source of them, and which I always carry about me.' — 'Can it be possible,' cried Dogandar, gladly taking advantage of his inconsiderate avowal, 'that all the gold which you scatter comes from one purse, and a purse that can be so easily carried? Ah! you continue to deceive me.' — 'Madam,' replied Tangut, 'you shall immediately have a proof of it.' He thereupon drew out his purse, and opened it many times; and at each time, after having been previously emptied, a great many pieces of gold fell from it, which he regularly spread at the feet of the young princess. Dogandar was seized with an irresistible inclination to obtain possession of this wonderful purse. 'I will not believe even my own eyes,' said she, 'until I have myself at least made such an agreeable experiment.' In a sort of frolic, she drew the purse out of the hands of Tangut, concealed it in her bosom, and fled with

it into the interior of the palace, shutting the doors of each room she escaped through upon him. Whilst he believed that his mistress only meant to amuse herself, he expected her return without uneasiness; but an eunuch presently entered, who dismissed him harshly from the palace by the orders of Dogandar. He now no longer doubted his misfortune. He returned next day, but it was not possible for him, neither that day nor any other, to speak to the princess. It is true, he saw her once or twice, and she also cast her eyes upon him; but those eyes, formerly so kind and attractive, now regarded him with indifference, and even disdain. Never was any one so much embarrassed as Tangut; love would have detained him, but the impossibility of supporting his former appearance and expence compelled him to depart. After having debated with himself some time, he determined to leave the scene of his unhappiness, and he did this with the less uneasiness, that his misfortune did not appear without remedy, if either of his brothers would assist him.

In these sentiments, he set out from Kemra-rouf, without taking leave of any one, and repaired to Xamor, whom he hoped to prevail upon to succour him more easily than Hiarkan. 'My brother,' said he to him, 'the greatest of misfortunes has befallen me: an ungrateful beauty has carried off my purse. Lend me your horn, I beseech you; and I will instantly go

and compel her to restore it. Xamor was surprised and afflicted at this account; nevertheless, after some reproaches, which were rather the effect of his friendship, than proofs of his indignation, he granted his brother the favour he requested.

Tangut, returned to Kemmerouf by the shortest road, resolved to besiege the place. Sounding his horn six times, at each blast fifty thousand men instantly appeared, whom he posted opposite to the six gates of the city. These men were strong and courageous, completely armed, and arranged in divisions, by hundreds, thousands, and ten thousands, under wise and intrepid commanders. They neither wanted provisions, nor ammunition, nor engines of every kind, adapted to a siege. Whilst large detachments of cavalry laid waste the country, the infantry battered and undermined the walls. Fadhel and the inhabitants of Kemmerouf, seeing so many powerful enemies, without knowing who they were, or from whence they came, or what were their demands, were inexpressibly alarmed. They attempted to send some spies into the camp, but they were all arrested. In vain they endeavoured to beat back the besiegers with showers of arrows and stones, and vigorous sorties from the town. They soon found they had to deal with invulnerable soldiers, and the sultan was convinced that he must come to a resolution, either to perish, or implore the mercy of an



enemy whom he did not even know. This last alternative appeared to him the preferable one, and he went out with his family and court to cast himself at the feet of his conqueror. As soon as he was without the gate, he was surrounded, and conducted, with his retinue, to the tent of Tangut, before whom he prostrated himself, without daring to raise his eyes towards him.

‘I know not, invincible sovereign,’ said he to him, sighing, ‘whether thou art a man or some superior being, and I only know that I have incurred thine enmity, because I feel its dreadful consequences. Whether thou hast resolved to follow the emotions of thy resentment to the utter destruction of me and my people, or whether thou hast prescribed certain limits to it, I hope thou wilt not censure me for the humble posture in which I implore thy mercy. Pronounce, dread sir, the order for our death, or grant us the pardon of the injuries we must have done you; behold us in thy power, and ready to yield ourselves to thy pleasure. But if thou wilt treat us as criminals, be graciously pleased to inform us how we have been so unfortunate as to draw down thy indignation.’

Whilst the sultan spoke, all his retinue were in tears, with their eyes fixed on the ground, except the beautiful Dogandar, who, though she wept as well as others, turned her eyes from time to time upon Tangut. She knew him again, and it cannot be believed with what courage and

confidence this inspired her. Tangut, on his part, met her eyes, and their impression upon him was irresistible; his heart was moved and softened, and what little anger remained served only to embarrass him, and to render his looks irresolute. He raised up the sultan, telling him, that he would soon give him the explanation he wished for, and hastily retired to conceal his confusion, and to consider how he ought to proceed. The result was not doubtful; love, which resumed all its power over him, urged him to a reconciliation with his mistress. With this view, he invited the sultan, the princesses, and the chief commanders to dinner. Dogandar was not then the only person who recognized him, but none ventured to express their astonishment.

Dogander first ventured to address him in these words: 'If one might without offence to you, my lord, express their thoughts, perhaps it would be easy to convince you that your resentment is most unreasonable.'—'Madam,' replied Tangut in a faltering tone, 'I know no one less capable of convincing me of that than yourself.'—The tone and manner with which this unfortunate lover, again subdued by her charms, pronounced these few words, convinced the artful princess, that her power over him was fully restored; and, taking advantage of this important discovery, 'Nevertheless that task shall be mine,' returned she; 'you have taken offence at an action which I committed only in sport,

and have considered as an insult a step which I only adopted to put your affections to the proof. If I had believed you of so violent a temper, I might have managed you with more circumspection. You protested that you loved me, and I wished to ascertain it by the innocent means which you yourself afforded me; in that very moment I lost you, and you appeared not again till you came with sword in hand to stab me to the heart. I could not have foreseen a desertion so sudden, nor expected so cruel a return; confess it, my lord, and judge which of us have committed the greatest fault.'

Tangut made no reply to this speech. Fadel now addressed him, and after having blamed the imprudence of his daughter, and declared, in strong terms, how much he disapproved the conduct of which she had been guilty, concluded with these words: 'Prince, if this inconsiderate girl has yet any share of your affections, she shall be yours to-morrow.'—'Why,' interrupted the sultana, 'delay this affair till to-morrow? This moment I give my daughter to the brave Tangut; let him return in our company and restore tranquillity to his own afflicted subjects.' The son of Aboucaf could not resolve to refuse the happiness of which he now thought himself fully assured. He agreed to enter Kemmerouf, but on condition that he should take with him whom he thought proper, and that his troops should remain in possession of one of the

gates of the city. The terror of the inhabitants was changed into the greatest joy, when they saw Tangut in the streets. He discoursed familiarly, sometimes with the sultan, sometimes with the princesses, and no longer bore in his countenance any marks of resentment. He had in truth forgotten all that had past, and thought of nothing but the happiness of possessing the charming Dogandar. The sultan entertained him magnificently in a garden, all the trees of which were loaded with burning torches, that gave a light equal to that of the sun at noon-day.

After supper Dogandar joined Tangut, and walked with him to some distance from the company. 'Now,' said she, 'we may express our sentiments without disguise. How happy am I to have for a lover and a husband the most powerful prince in the world! But your last wonders have so much amazed me, that I am not yet recovered from my astonishment. Nobody can carry on war without money, and though the source of your treasures remained in my hands, you have raised an army capable of conquering the world. You have done more; for you have surprised us by a march so sudden and so well concerted, that we were attacked and overcome before we knew that we had an enemy to fear. I shall say nothing of your soldiers, who destroy their enemies while they are themselves invulnerable. For my part, all this exceeds my comprehension, and if I dared hope for your com-

plaisance, I would give you a stronger proof of my curiosity than I have hitherto ventured.'— She said this with an air so tender and insinuating, and darted at the same time upon Tangut those looks, the resistless charm of which had so often disconcerted him, that, being no longer capable of reflection, he drew out his horn, and said to her, 'I should be, madam, the most ungrateful of mankind if I suffered you to be longer uneasy. This instrument alone has given me an army, and would give me a million still more numerous if I had need of them. I have only to sound it for a moment, and to demand as many troops as I please, and I am immediately obeyed.' — 'Is it possible?' said the artful princess; 'my surprise is greatly heightened, and my curiosity also. I must positively try if this miraculous horn possesses the same properties in my hands as in yours.' Saying this, she snatched it from his hands very dexterously, and retiring five or six paces, as if in sport, she put it to her mouth, and sounding it, demanded a hundred thousand men. In the twinkling of an eye, all the city, and the palace, and even the garden, were filled with strange soldiers, and those of Tangut instantly disappeared, because the enchantment was so contrived, that the effect produced by any second person defeated the work of the first. All that the unhappy lover could now do, was to anticipate the probable vengeance of his mistress. He fled from the garden





therefore with all speed, and, by favour of the darkness, escaped from the city by the nearest gate. When he reached the open country, he cursed his weakness and the perfidy of Dogandar; but the fear of being seized did not suffer him, for some time, to stop to reflect upon his unhappy condition. At length, when he believed himself secure, and more calmly considered his misfortunes, and the means of terminating them, one certain expedient alone presented itself to his mind, which was the girdle of his eldest brother; but the difficulty of obtaining it

extremely perplexed him. Hiarkan was naturally impetuous, haughty, and by no means disposed to grant favours; Tangut dreaded a refusal from him, accompanied with even harsh treatment. The girdle was his last resource, however, and it was necessary for him to make the experiment whatever might be the consequences. Being well acquainted with Hiarkan's peculiar humour, he availed himself of it accordingly; he threw himself at his feet, and, with tears in his eyes, thus addressed him: 'Would to God, my brother, that I had followed your wise counsels! You have always shewn me the affection of a father, and it has been the source of all my misery that I did not in return behave towards you with the respectful obedience of a child. That is, my brother, the greatest of my faults; for though the loss which I have sustained of my purse, and of the horn of Xamor, too clearly proves my unworthiness, that loss, if properly considered, is but the consequence of the too little regard I have paid to your advice. What tears can expiate my guilt! Prescribe to me, generous Hiarkan, whatever atonement you please, but do not refuse me a boon which can alone re-establish the fortunes of a family which enjoys the happiness of having you for its chief. In requesting the use of your girdle, I beg of you a favour which in a few minutes will enable me to recover all that I have been unjustly deprived of. How fortunate shall I afterwards be, if you

will permit me to attend you during the rest of my life, and profit by the exemplary prudence and wisdom which you every moment display, and which I have hitherto so unfortunately neglected to imitate !'

Hiarkan stood motionless as a statue, and appeared quite insensible to the tears and the entreaties of Tangut ; and this apparent insensibility was followed with so dreadful a gust of passion, that the poor youth believed himself undone. Nevertheless, it was that which saved him ; for the rage of Hiarkan having exhausted itself, remonstrances and arguments succeeded abuse, and at last the boon he requested was unwillingly granted him. Tangut instantly put on the wonderful girdle, named a mosque in the city of Kemmerouf, and in one minute found himself in it. He kept himself concealed there till after midnight ; then, when every body was sunk in sleep, he named the chamber of his mistress, where he was carried in an instant. He beheld her sleeping calmly, and Tangut, on approaching her bed, felt within him emotions which distracted him. The two egregious deceptions which Dogandar had practised upon him, were not capable of extinguishing the love which he felt for her, and he was in despair to find his passion so little under the controul of his better judgment.

' Ah ! Hiarkan,' said he, in a low voice, ' if you were but in my place, how different would

be your conduct!"—The remembrance of his brother, and the alarming apprehension that he would be from henceforth without any resource, having restored his courage, he impetuously threw open the curtains, and in his agitation overthrew a table with a great noise.

The beautiful Dogandar awaked in a dreadful surprise; and without daring to open her eyes, she asked who had occasioned so great a disturbance?—"It is a deceived lover," replied Tangut. "Restore to me immediately the purse and the horn; I have but a moment to remain here." Dogandar, knowing with whom she had to deal, shook off her fears. "So it is you," replied she, looking upon Tangut, "who came here to surprise me. I am not displeased that you should every day astonish me with new wonders, but indeed, I think you might have chosen a fitter time, and not have come at this unseasonable hour to disturb my repose. Tell me, if you please, the meaning of this new frolic; I know not whether I dreamt, but I imagined I heard you express yourself in very extraordinary language."

She sat up on her bed; her night-dress was enchantingly disposed, and the light of perfumed tapers discovered ten thousand beauties to the enchanted Tangut. He, who had never beheld his mistress in this situation before, did not long withstand the charms which had already so often disarmed his just resentment, and which present circumstances rendered still more power-

ful. All his anger vanished. 'I beg you, madam,' replied he, 'to pardon my rashness. Permit me, however, respectfully to complain, that it is owing to you that I am the most unfortunate of men. You have twice been the cause of my ruin.' — 'Do not insult me over again,' interrupted the princess, 'but come near.' Tangut approached the malicious Dogandar, enraptured at the kindness she shewed him. 'With what,' continued she, 'dare you reproach me? What do you mean by these outrageous expressions? After the explanation I gave you concerning the purse, can you still complain of me? With regard to the horn, you would act more prudently in holding your tongue, than in bringing to my recollection the most ungenerous action of which a man could be capable. It is you who have deceived me.' — 'I, madam?' replied Tangut. — 'Did not you,' continued Dogandar, 'abandon me at the very time when I had yielded consent to all your wishes? Was it not you who fled, and, by this shameful action, exposed me to the ridicule of all the world? I had raised a new army, and yours disappeared, pretty reasons for your flight! These new troops truly! did they not belong to you as well as the horn, or, to speak more properly, as well as her who had innocently employed this instrument in raising them?'

The conclusion of this speech so greatly affected Tangut that he fell on his knees, to beg



pardon a second time of the young princess : but she desired him to rise immediately ; ‘ You are,’ said she, ‘ strangely dressed ; what fashion is this you mean to introduce ? In all appearance the fairies have made that girdle, but if so, they are neither so rich nor so skilful as they are thought to be. It seems very coarsely wrought, but let me see if I am not mistaken.’—Dogandar could not have more happily introduced the questions which she wished to put to him in order to discover this new secret.—‘ Madam,’ replied Tangut, whilst he came forward, ‘ I know nothing whatever about fairies, nor do I know that the girdle is part of their dress. One thing is certain ; that mine is of inestimable value, and is infinitely precious to me, since it has procured me the pleasure which I now enjoy.’—Whilst he spoke, the subtle princess gently untied the girdle, and insensibly drew it towards her. ‘ How have you managed,’ returned she, ‘ to come from the distance I must suppose you to have fled ? Have you been long on your journey ?’—‘ I have,’ answered he, ‘ gone over three hundred leagues in an instant ; this girdle was no sooner round me than I named this city, where I immediately found myself. But, madam, do you mean to deprive me of it ?’ Dogandar had by this time put it round herself, and had just completely fastened it when he perceived her treachery. Instead of answering him, she named the apartment of the sultan, and was instantly transported

thither. Immediately Fadhel called up his guards, and all the palace was filled with a dreadful uproar. It was fortunate for Tangut that he had been often there, and was acquainted with the most secret passages. A little private staircase now happily afforded him the means of escape. He hastily passed through the town, and having arrived at a part of the ramparts which was almost in ruins, he had still strength and ingenuity enough to effect his escape. After having a little recovered his breath, he no longer bewailed himself as formerly, nor had recourse to imprecations, but gave himself up, with an appearance of tranquillity, to the blackest despair, and devoted himself to certain death.

To the west of Kemmerouf there are frightful mountains, which form an immense desert, so dry and barren, that even those animals that are most capable of subsisting in deserts cannot inhabit it. Tangut took his way thither, in the hope of soon terminating his life and his sufferings together. He travelled all the rest of the night and the following day without repose, that, fatigue being added to hunger, his miserable existence might be the sooner terminated. Towards the close of day, as he followed with unsteady steps the descent of a steep rock, he fell into a swoon, and his body, destitute of all sensation, rolled for some time towards a precipice, where this unhappy prince would have been crushed to pieces by the fall if his clothes had not been caught by an old fig-



tree, which stopped his course. This tree might be called the wonder of that solitary place, for there was no herb to be seen near it. His fainting fit was succeeded by a long drowsiness, which did not leave him till the next day was far advanced. Having opened his eyes, the first object which struck him was the tree which had preserved him. He looked at it for some time, and feeling a strong propensity, after his long fasting, to taste its fruit, he said to himself, 'I have indeed resolved to die, but of what consequence is it that I die one day later?' Let me for once enjoy the pleasure of eating these fine figs since

fortune offers them to me, I shall die quite as well afterwards.' He raised himself with much difficulty, and having caught the branches of the tree nearest to him, he devoured, with extreme eagerness and without reflection, all the figs he could gather. His nose lengthened a foot for every fig he swallowed, and though he soon perceived this alarming prodigy, the grief which it occasioned him could not prevail over his voracious appetite. He still continued to eat; but, alas! while his stomach was filling, his nose was lengthening; till at last it was so much twisted in the branches of the fig-tree, that he did not disentangle it without considerable difficulty.

Whilst he was gratifying his appetite, the progress of this strange misfortune made no great impression on him, but this was not the case afterwards. Tangut, who had formerly defied fortune to render him more miserable, learned, by what had just befallen him, that his misfortunes admitted of increase. 'I have been begotten,' said he, 'under a cursed planet; my imprudence occasioned my other misfortunes; but what have I done to deserve this? Let me fly this fatal tree and its hateful nourishment, and embrace an early opportunity of putting an end to all my sufferings by death.' He therefore wrapped his nose round his left arm, and, loaded with this painful and ludicrous burden, continued his journey. The figs had recruited his strength; he travelled with renewed vigour, and the sun

had not set when he arrived in a valley at a great distance from the place which he had last quitted. There, seating himself upon a stone, he turned his eyes by chance towards a deep hollow which the shade of the rocks rendered very obscure, where he saw another fig-tree loaded with most excellent fruit. This discovery, instead of giving him pleasure, grieved him so much, that if he had not been greatly fatigued, he would have instantly fled far from a place which seemed to invite him still further to lengthen his life and his nose; but, oppressed with grief and toil, he turned to the opposite side, and fell asleep.

Upon awaking he felt himself tortured with hunger, but a certain undefined notion came across his brain, at the same moment, that the figs which were eaten yesterday were now digested, and what danger therefore could arise from eating those which again offered themselves? His situation, he considered, could not be worse; indeed, why should he leave the place at all? That valley would suffice for his grave as well as any where else. 'In the mean time,' said the starving Tangut, 'let me gather and fill myself with these delicious figs before I die.' Accordingly he approached the tree, holding the end of his nose in one hand, while with the other he plucked a fig, and carried it to his mouth; but he had scarcely swallowed it, when the end of his nose slipped from his hands. He was going to catch it, when he perceived that it was at least a foot



shorter. A second fig having produced a similar effect confirmed this opinion, and a third one suffered him no longer to doubt of the beneficial property of this fruit in shortening the nose. With what joy, and how eagerly did he swallow fig after fig, until his nose was reduced to its natural size! Having at length happily accomplished this, he began to bethink himself of the means of re-establishing his circumstances, and resolved to practise a deception which he imagined could scarcely fail of success. He ripped up the linen of his turban, and put into it a great many figs of this last kind, and then, returning speedily to the first fig-tree, he gathered a pretty large quantity of them also, which he carefully wrapt up separately in another piece of the linen, after which he took the road for Kemmerous, where he arrived in the evening.

He passed the night in the house of a poor woman, who lodged him without knowing who he was. In the morning he besmeared his face with clay, disguised himself like a peasant, and having filled a little basket with the nose-lengthening figs, he covered them with leaves, and proceeded to walk backwards and forwards opposite the palace of Fadhel. The chief purveyor having at length observed him, called him, and demanded what he sold.—‘Here are fine figs from the mountains,’ said the sham peasant.—‘This is not the season for figs,’ said the officer, whilst he uncovered the basket; ‘nevertheless these are ripe;

what price do you demand for them?'—'The fruits which grow upon rocks exposed to the sun,' said Tangut, 'ripen sooner than others; but as they are scarce, you must give me so much for them,' naming a sum. The bargain was immediately concluded. Tangut forthwith changed his lodgings, disguised himself like a physician, put on a false beard, and, thus equipped, waited the effects which he knew his figs would produce.

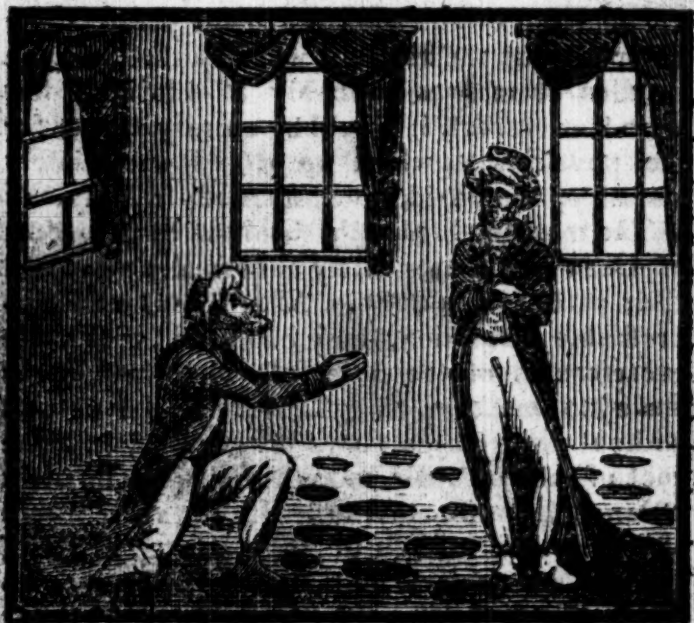
The chief purveyor of the palace had no sooner bought them, than he hastened to the apartment of the sultana and the princess, who were drinking coffee together. 'New fruits!' cried he; 'I bring you the first figs of the season.'—The mother and the daughter hurried to the basket. Dogandar filled both her hands with as much speed as if she had been stealing them, and ran to the other side of the chamber to devour them without interruption. The queen first observed that her nose was lengthened four feet, after having eaten so many figs. She threw away the fifth half-pared, and gave a shriek which induced Dogandar to turn her head towards her. 'Dear mother,' she exclaimed, 'what a nose!'—'Ah! my daughter,' said the sultana, looking at her, 'we are undone!' They both hastened to a mirror, which too faithfully represented their dreadful misfortune. Who can express the various passions which agitated their hearts! They made so great a noise that it brought all the women of the palace to them, as well as the

sultan, the grand visier, the chief of the eunuchs, and many of the emirs. The good Fadhel was greatly astonished ; but that he might not increase the affliction of the sultana and the princess, he observed that the accident which seemed to have befallen them was probably an illusion ; but were it even real, it would be an easy matter for the physicians, whom he would immediately assemble, to provide for it a speedy remedy.

The most intelligent physicians in the kingdom of Assan were immediately convened, and visited their patients in a body. After a long and unprofitable discussion, they concluded that these excrescences of the nose, of which their books made no mention, might, indeed, be cut off without danger by a sharp instrument ; but the root of each of their noses being unfortunately enlarged in proportion to its length, there would always remain a disgusting scar in the middle of the face, particularly in that of the princess, who had devoured the figs with more relish and avidity than the sultana. This decision aggravated the despair of Dogandar and her mother, and they shut themselves up, concealed from the sight of every one. The report of their misfortune soon spread all over the city, with the afflicting opinion of the physicians. This was just what Taogut expected.

He went, in quality of a foreign physician, to offer his services to the sultan, giving him reason to hope every thing from his long experience,

and great knowledge in simples. Fadhel accepted his offers, and led him himself into the



apartment of the ladies. The pretended physician felt the pulses of their legs and arms, examined their noses, and then, in a rough tone of voice, said to them, 'My queens, you possess truly no small resemblance to elephants; and if there are any means of depriving the elephant of his trunk without amputation, you may be assured of getting rid of yours in the same manner. Now I can tell you that this may be done,

and I believe I am the only person in the world who knows the method. I have already made the experiment upon one of the strongest elephants in all the kingdom of Pegu. But before I begin to attempt your cure, it is proper to inform you, that the animal being of a quiet and peaceful temperament, greatly contributes to render the remedies we give him effectual; consequently, they will be of no avail in your cases until I have succeeded in reducing your humours to a proper temperature.'

When he had pronounced this harangue, which he had prepared for the purpose of employing their thoughts, whilst he proceeded to accomplish his own designs, Fadhel told him that he had only to give what orders he pleased to the princesses, who would submit to his directions in every thing, and he gave him an apartment in the palace that he might be nearer them. For eight days he administered only common medicines under strange names, to inspire them with a higher idea of his ability. These medicines having, as he said, restored the temperature of the sultana to that proper equality which was absolutely necessary for her cure, he led her into a closet, the windows of which were shut; and, having put into her mouth four large figs, one after another, which she readily swallowed, 'There, madam,' said he, 'your cure is complete.'—She put her hand to her nose, and was so transported with joy, that, leaving the physician, she



hastened to skew herself to her daughter, who waited impatiently the result of the operation. Dogandar, on observing the sultana's nose of the usual size, shed over her tears of joy. She then conjured the physician, with the utmost earnestness, not to delay her cure. Tangut coldly observed to her, that he wished her complexion resembled that of her mother. He next felt her pulse, then shook his head, and assumed an aspect so ominous that Dogandar shook with terror. After these ceremonies, he plainly declared that her misfortune being incurable, he wished to take his departure from the palace. The sultana and Fadhel, who happened to come in at the moment, were deeply afflicted at this determination. Not being able to prevail with the physician to apply any further remedy to the patient, they begged him to remain at least some time at court, to which he consented, apparently with much reluctance.

Dogandar passed her days and nights in weeping. 'What avail me now,' said she, 'all the advantages which nature and fortune have conferred upon me! Alas! these regular features, these sparkling eyes, this bright complexion, and all those charms with which I have been so often deservedly flattered, only serve to display, in a stronger light, the deformity with which I am now afflicted! Would there have been on earth a princess more happy than I, but for this dreadful calamity which oppresses me, and will soon

bring me to my grave ! But such reflections only increase my grief : The inexhaustible purse, the formidable horn, and the wonderful girdle, in the hands of a monster, only aggravate my misery.'— One afternoon, Tangut, when about to enter her apartment, heard her talking in this manner, and conceived the time was now arrived when he might retrieve all his losses.

Resolved to avail himself of the opportunity, he entered without appearing to have overheard her complaints, and having saluted his patient as usual. ' Ah !' said she to him, sighing, ' is it possible that you have absolutely condemned me to pass the rest of my life in my present condition ? I implore you to have compassion on me ; at all events make a fair trial ; do you fear that you shall not be sufficiently rewarded ? If my father's treasures will not satisfy you, the unfortunate princess who now addresses you can herself make you such presents as shall compel you to acknowledge that no physician was ever paid with such magnificence as you shall be.'

' Interest, madam,' replied Tangut, ' never had much influence over me ; I am only actuated by the love of glory. I envy that of conquerors and kings who have rendered themselves famous not merely by their great actions, but still more so by their beneficence ; and in the profession which I exercise, if I could transport myself in a moment from the one extremity of the globe to the other, I would fill all the world with my

renown, by restoring health to the illustrious diseased of all nations.'

'Restore my nose to its usual size,' replied Dogandar, 'and I will put it in your power to obtain greater conquests, and perform more generous actions, than all the monarchs who ever lived. I will do more; I will confer upon you the power of transporting yourself to every place where you wish to be, so rapidly, that the flight of birds shall be slow in comparison with yours.'—Tangut, having learned to dissemble by his past misfortunes, appeared much astonished at these proposals. 'Madam,' said he to her, laughing, 'one promises every thing to obtain what one greatly desires; even impossibilities.'—'My promises are not of that kind,' interrupted Dogandar; 'and if after my cure such charms as nature has given me'——She added no more, but took from her closet the purse, the horn, and the girdle, and shewing them to the physician, she explained to him their different properties. Though he knew more than she did on that subject, he appeared incredulous of all she told him, and even pretended a desire to leave her, that he might not be compelled any longer to listen to so idle a conversation; and he acted his part so well, that the princess, with much difficulty, prevailed with him to take home these three rarities and make a trial of them. He put them in his pocket as if merely to please her, and having thus recovered what he had so long

despaired of, he determined to bring the scene to a speedy conclusion. 'I have no reason to hope for your recovery,' said he to the princess; 'but since your gratitude extends so far, I shall even try impossibilities, and shall visit you again within an hour. He accordingly retired, put on his girdle, and prepared for his departure.

He returned to the apartment of the princess with some of the medicinal figs, and a common one, which he had provided on purpose, and found her in the same closet where her mother's cure had been accomplished, reposing on a sofa. Having felt the pulses of her arms and legs, and other sensitive parts, he caused her, by some secret means, to fall into a swoon, and on her recovery from it, he gave her as many figs to swallow as were required to reduce her nose to the length of a foot; he then again felt her pulse. 'Ah! madam,' cried he, 'what a fatal change! my remedy can operate no farther.'—'Continue to administer it, however,' replied the princess. —'That I shall do with the utmost pleasure,' replied the doctor, 'and I wish I may be deceived.'—Whether it was terror or something else, the princess again fell into a swoon, while he, enjoying the pleasure of revenge, put into her mouth the common fig, which she swallowed without effect. 'Inexpressible grief! dreadful renewal of my former despair!' exclaimed she, with a deep sigh, 'shall I then remain with a nose a foot long?'—'Yes, my fair lady, you shall,'

replied the sham doctor, 'and it is Tangüt who assures you of it.'—At the same time he opened the windows, pulled off his false beard, discovered himself, and naming the city of Hiar-kan, his girdle immediately carried him thither. Dogandar would gladly have died at this cruel and afflicting moment; but, nevertheless, she survived it, and lived even to an extreme old age, though she could never be reconciled to her nose. As to the prince Tangüt, after having returned the horn and the girdle to his brothers, he settled in a fertile country, where he founded a prosperous and extensive kingdom.





## ANECDOTE

OF A PERSIAN MINISTER OF STATE.

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COSROES, King of Persia, had a Minister of State, whose character was so amiable, that it was difficult to determine by whom he was most beloved, the King or his people. At length this able Minister demanded his dismissal : but Cosroes, unwilling to lose such a faithful and wise statesman, desired an explanation. 'Why would you desert me?' said the afflicted Monarch :— 'Have you any cause of complaint? Has not the dew of my benevolence fallen upon thee? Have not all my slaves been ordered to make no distinction between thy orders and mine? Are not you next my heart? Have you any thing to ask that I can grant? Speak, and you shall be satisfied; only do not think of leaving me.'

Mitrane, the Minister, made this reply : 'O, King! I have served thee with zeal and fidelity, and thou hast amply rewarded me; but nature now requires from me one of the most sacred of its duties. I have a son, who can only learn from me how to serve thee or thy successors hereafter, as I have done : let me pursue this private duty, after all my care for the public good.'

Cosroes granted his request; but upon this condition, that he should take the young Prince

with him into his retreat, and educate both the youths together.

Mitranes set out, and, after five or six years absence, returned and carried his pupils to Court. Cosroes was overjoyed to see his son again; but, upon examination, he was greatly chagrined to find that he had not made the same progress in his studies as the son of Mitranes. In short, he was greatly inferior to him in point of real merit. —The King complained to the Minister of this striking difference; and his reply should be a lesson to all young men of good dispositions: ‘O, King! my son has made a better use than yours of the instructions I gave to both: my attention has been equally divided between them; but my son knows that his dependence must be on mankind, while I never could conceal from yours that men would be dependent upon him.’



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